

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for effecting at least one of display and input, comprising:

5 a flexible sheet-like member for effecting at least one of display and input, and

a rigidity adjusting means for changing at least partially a rigidity of said flexible sheet-like member.

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2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said sheet-like member comprises an input portion and a display portion which substantially overlap each other to provide a unit when viewed from a direction
15 of a user's line of sight.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said rigidity adjusting means comprises a control portion and a rigidity adjusting member attached to
20 the sheet-like member, said rigidity adjusting member being formed of a variable-rigidity material.

4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises first detection means
25 for detecting a state of said sheet-like member, and said rigidity adjusting member is not controlled to ensure rigidity necessary for said sheet-like member

unless said detection means at least detects that said sheet-like member is not placed on a surface having a certain degree of rigidity.

5 5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said apparatus further comprises second detection
means for detecting start of input, and said rigidity
adjusting member is not controlled to ensure rigidity
necessary for said apparatus unless said second
10 detection means at least detects start of input.

6. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said apparatus further comprises third detection means
for detecting stop of input, and said rigidity
15 adjusting member is controlled to return said rigidity
adjusting member in a flexible state when said third
detection means detects stop of input in such a state
that rigidity necessary for said apparatus is ensured.

20 7. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said apparatus further comprising means for
controlling timing of ensuring and/or losing rigidity
necessary for the apparatus.

25 8. An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein
the first detection means detects a state of said
apparatus to control said rigidity adjusting means

even during input is performed.

9. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein
said apparatus further comprises control portion
5 operation means for permitting a user to operate a
control portion, and rigidity of said apparatus is
controllable by operating the control portion
operation means by the user.

10 10. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said rigidity adjusting means comprises a movable
mechanism which can be placed in such a state that it
does not impair flexibility of said sheet-like member
and is movable in an area capable of at least
15 partially
ensure rigidity of said sheet-like member.

11. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein
said apparatus is at least an apparatus for effecting
20 display, and said rigidity adjusting member also
functions as a base portion of drive means for driving
said apparatus.